

WHERE ICE SPORTS ATTRACT

By MAURIE WIDMER.

SNOW, deep sparkling snow, heralds the advent of the traditional festive days. It clings to the mountainside, like an ermine mantle of gigantic proportions; cushionlike it rests on the dark brown roofs and the familiar roads which our eyes were wont to see among their way through the fields and pastures are no more. Every bush and tree has been decorated for the occasion and regions of snow maidens and ice carls fill the air and thither to add some last finishing touches to the fairylike scene.

Frost has closed the turquoise eyes of the alpine lakes and great sheets of transparent, polished ice cover the spacious lakes. There is skating, of course, but many games compete now with this oldest of sports on the ice, which has, however, been developed into an art which charms the onlooker by the gracefulness of its movements, now astonishes by the cool daring of the swift rushes. As in summer over the lawn flies the tennis ball, so flies the puck over the ice in the game of hockey. Curlers are frantically sweeping their "stones" toward the coveted goal and the unlimited diversity of gymnastic stunts offers constant amusement for the players as well as for the onlookers.

The spirit of sport is prevalent everywhere. Toboggans and bobsleighs of modern construction have ousted the old fashioned horse-drawn sled, which is now only occasionally used by timid beginners. The up to date vehicle is the so-called skeleton, a low, yard long toboggan on which the tobogganist lies flat, steering the craft with his hands and feet. Like an arrow it darts up the lead walls of the curves and as the bewildered spectator fearfully anticipates an accident, the toboggan shoots down into the furrows and around a beautifully shaped curve.

Bobsleighing is the social way of tobogganing and there is scarcely a more picturesque sight than a bob, with its white clad burden of six, flying through the winter world. By swaying to the right or left the closely crowded crew are guiding their sleigh, by letting their arms drop on the snow they apply a brake and by leaning forward they increase the speed. A rope hung with many colored streamers, stretched across the road, marks the end of the run, where, glowing from warmth and excitement, the merry bobsleers finish their birdlike flight.

Skiers are having their fun on every slope and every hill, for the wooden wings of Norway have for many years occupied an honorary place in every peasant's home. The postmen now ski swiftly over the dazzling snow and instead of having to remain at home snowbound, the children are actually enjoying a ski race to school, where the ordinary walker, on foot, would sink up to the hips in the snow. The skis are so light that the skier can climb his path almost free from exertion.

Races, competitions, sleigh drives, ski excursions, ice carnivals and indoor entertainments in the evening are daily occurrences during the winter season. Agony, with youth in the merry-making and the wonderful sunshine and delicious air impart a sort of reckless happiness into every heart.

Christmas entails of course an extra amount of festivities in honor of the visitors; it also means, however, a succession of delightful and interesting days for the natives. It is the time when fairyland becomes reality to the youngsters; when the "Christkindli" dwells on earth in order to distribute fragrant Christmas trees and heaps of good things to the children who have been obedient.

Some twenty or thirty years ago it used to be Santa Claus whom the children hailed as the mystic donor of their gifts. He was a stout, kindly old man, dressed in a red suit, with a white beard, carrying a bag of gifts and a long list of names. They were simple, sensible little gifts, but nevertheless highly appreciated by the gladdened recipients. Later on, the "Christkindli"—a lovely angel with wings gradually started to take old Santa's place in many districts of Switzerland. Christkindli brought a wonderful, brilliantly lit Christmas tree, decorated with glittering threads of silver and gold and heavily laden with manifold gifts.

Many ancient and quaint customs are still prevalent in Switzerland during this period of the year.

If you want, for instance, to find out how the weather will be during the next few days, cut an onion in half, peel off the layers, one for each month, and fill the same with salt. Those peels which contain damp salt the next morning predict rainy weather for the respective months.

To the unmarried folk Christmas holds that magic key to the unknown future. On Christmas eve when the bells are calling to worship in the church, you must drink three times from nine different fountains and you will then behold your future husband or wife standing at the church door.

Miraculous powers are attributed to Christmas. Children born on that day can see ghosts and are able to tell your fortune. Water can be changed into wine and if you are some sort of an adept in the mysterious art of magic, you are at that time able to safeguard yourself against all bodily injuries. Farmers in certain parts of the country believe that if they fertilize the soil or tie a bundle of straw around the trunk of their fruit trees during Christmas week the same will bear special quantities of fruit.

All know that cattle are not endowed with the gift of speech; but on Christmas night for one brief hour the dumb beasts are able to converse in human language. Misfortune, however, befalls the inquisitive who takes it upon himself to listen.

Many are the quaint and curious customs which one can still find in various

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A skiing and snowshoeing party starting off for a day's sport at Lake George, N. Y.

of Switzerland and a great number of them are celebrated during the Christmas and New Year's holidays, so that the visitor to Switzerland in winter can not only enjoy the marvelous delights of the winter sport season but can also obtain an insight into the life of the natives.

DOWN IN THE LAKEWOOD PINES.

LAKEWOOD, N. J., Dec. 28.—Nestled in the famous pine belt of New Jersey, Lakewood is a winter haven for New Yorkers and visitors from all quarters of the globe who find in the winter colony activities, the social diversions of the hotels and the recreations of the outdoor life a restful combination of opportunities for idling through the cold months.

Golfers, however, play throughout the winter and very seldom is there a continued spell of weather that absolutely closes the links. Even in snowy weather hardy enthusiasts of the ancient game get out the red balls and, sheltered by the pines that wall in the course of the Country Club, go out manfully for the full eighteen holes. Upon their return they are assured of a warm locker room and the cheerful grill or the more formal atmosphere of the drawing room.

Then there is the lake promenade, a romantic path stretching five miles about Old Carasfog, through pines and maples, over rustic bridges, where uncounted lovers have had their trysting place, paralleling the drive where horseback riders and coaches pass and by bubbling springs where the thirsty stoop for a draught of deliciously clear water. Every one who is a visitor to Lakewood walks the lake path at least once. Usually afterward it becomes a daily habit, and the morning promenade has come to be a distinct feature of the resort life.

Bridge, squash, bowling, cards, concerts—these are some of the features of indoor life at the hotels. The Laurel-in-the-Pines and the Laurel House and others of the hotels here have magnificent ballrooms and at the Laurel House tango teas are weekly Saturday afternoon features. Amateur theatricals, vaudeville, jazz bands and other events are staged in the ballrooms, and cotagers and hotel folk participate.

The palm room of the Laurel-in-the-Pines has become famous as the afternoon rendezvous of winter society here. The orchestra which the hotel maintains plays in the corridor and visitors sit singly or in groups in the pretty, tropical decorated palm room, where water bubbles in a myriad fountains and birds sing and the foliage. This is the concert tea and it is a daily fixture at 5 o'clock.

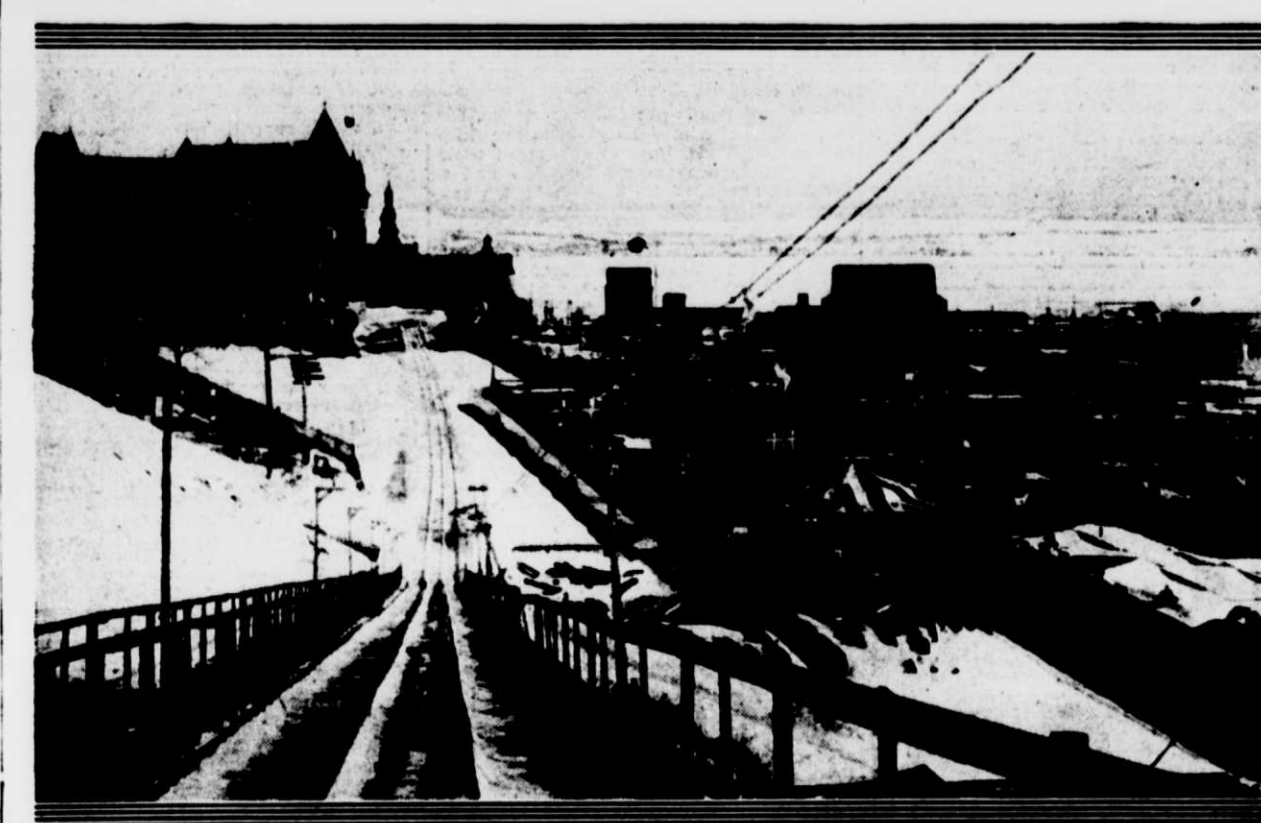
The drives about Lakewood are beautiful. Cathedral Drive, named for the towering pine trees that grow straight up, their overhanging branches meeting across the winding road, is perhaps the most famous. There is one entrance to this famous drive and one exit. It winds over a distance of several miles in such a manner that those just beginning the journey may glimpse at intervals those who are bound for the main road.

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. George J. Gould, Georgian Court, with its magnificent gardens, is the show place of the resort. The grounds are opened on certain days and visitors are accorded the privilege of inspection. Mr. and Mrs. Gould have opened their home for the winter now after a summer abroad, and entertain many visitors over the week ends. The sunken garden may be viewed from the lake drives. A pretty scene of scenery leading to this garden is the Kissing Bridge. It is a custom of the lake path that lovers may pause in their

stroll and unmolested express their affection in this satisfactory manner.

Trap shooting is another lure for the sportsman here. The Laurel House Gun Club has quarters near the Country Club, where weekly shoots are a feature. The club has just made public plans for new shelters and new traps and it is getting ready for the annual holiday shoot. The New York Athletic Club gunners and marksmen from the Field and Marine Clubs, among others, have entered for these events.

Mr. Gould's polo fields here are among the finest in the East, and last spring visitors enjoyed rare sport while the American quarter was getting in condition.



Chateau Frontenac and the toboggan slide on Dufferin Terrace, under the Citadel, Quebec

tion for the English invasion. The American team is expected to establish the training camp here again next spring and informal games among Mr. Gould's guests are expected during the winter.

Cottagers and hotel visitors are active in local charitable affairs. The Paul T. Kimball Memorial Hospital was recently erected through the benevolence of winter folk and an organization of visitors is interested in its maintenance. Concerts and entertainments have been planned for the benefit of the hospital for the coming winter.

Clack golf has been installed on the lawns of the Laurel-in-the-Pines and putting greens also have been established. Before breakfast putting parties have become popular at the hotel as a result and further benefits have accrued to golfers in the practice this diversion affords.

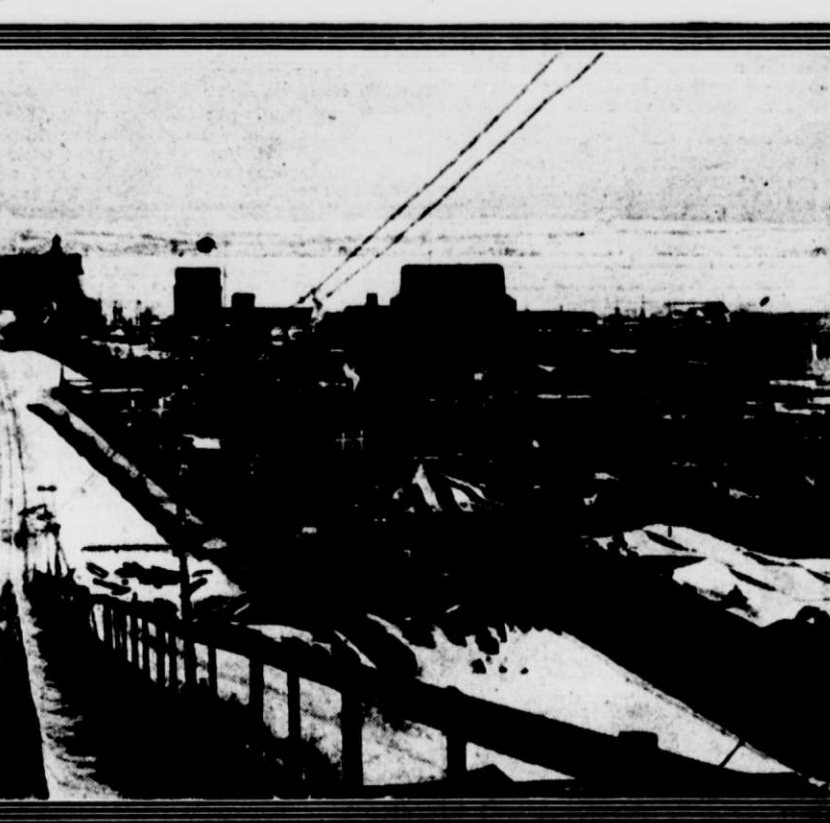
NEW SLOGAN FOR "ATLANTIC."

ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 28.—The Chamber of Commerce here has discarded all literature labeled "Atlantic City—the world famous summer resort." The new slogan is "Atlantic City. THE winter and summer resort."

The Chamber of Commerce has ap-

pointed a boost committee. When an idea of schemes that looks like sending the stock of the city soaring comes along it is the duty of this committee to get on the job and see to it that the aforementioned idea or scheme gets the proper amount of boosting.

Again the civic organization, combining with members of the City Commission and delegations representing banks and the officials of every resort on Abasco Island, is putting up a fight for a new railroad terminal, either a union depot with the Jersey Central and the Pennsylvania, or new individual stations. Atlantic City will have elevated tracks running in from



the boardwalk, putting in fountains and rearranging the front of the caravansary at a considerable expense.

Another improvement that will enliven the central section of the Boardwalk is the rathskeller that is now being built under the Hotel Alamac at Tennessee avenue. Entrance will be made from directly off the Boardwalk or the entrance of the hotel.

George C. Tilson, the New York amusement king, has approved plans for a \$250,000 addition to the Steeplechase pier at Pennsylvania avenue, the fun factory of the beach front. He will add 400 feet to the present structure and install entire

There is hardly anything that moves that is faster than an ice yacht, and ice yachting is a fine sport. Evidently they think so on Lake George.

carried on by the Federal Government to open up the channel leading into the inlet.

A new golf course is now about completed on the mainland near Abasco, seven miles by boulevard from Atlantic City. Carlton Geist heads the syndicate that has reclaimed a big section of the meadow lands and transformed them into a veritable fairyland in comparison with their original state. A clubhouse, with other buildings, is being erected, a park built clear around the course and a new road opened up to the main shore boulevard. First matches will be played there in the spring.

The city, cooperating with beach front property owners, has taken steps to save the best bathing grounds along the water front from the encroachments of the storm seas that have wrought big damage in some sections. Jetties have been contracted for and will be placed in position in time to build up a good beach before the bathing season officially opens.

Nearly all the larger hotels are undergoing improvement. Down at the Hotel Chelsea J. B. Thompson is installing a garden between his front verandas and

There Are Many Who Prefer to Use Their Winter Vacation Time in the Northern Country

new equipment from the big front auditorium out. Work is to start before spring and the best part of the job will have been completed before the real summer season starts.

Further up toward the inlet, at Rhode Island avenue, \$50,000 worth of new ideas are being incorporated in the Hygeia Pool, the big salt water swimming tank, the largest this side of St. Louis. A fine gymnasium, with special classes for athletically inclined feminine visitors, has proved to be a happy innovation and the owners are now putting in other attractions on a large scale and a fine Turkish bath system.

LAKE GEORGE A WINTER RESORT

WINTER sports! What is more exhilarating than to go out in the open on a clear, cold, crisp winter's day in the country with gleaming snow and sparkling ice everywhere? It is only of recent years that Americans have come to a realization of the fascination and healthfulness of winter sports, of which skating is the best known and most practiced; sleighing too may be enjoyed in the city suburbs; hockey matches are held on artificial rinks, but the real essence of the pleasure of tobogganing, snowshoeing and skiing can only be obtained where there are snow-clad hills, and for the thrilling sports of ice yachting and horse racing meets an expansive glassy ice surface of frozen lake or river is necessary.

Lake George, N. Y., which is 180 miles distant from New York, entered the field as a winter resort in 1911 and is now fairly launched, so much so that the leading hotel there, the Fort William Henry, has been kept open the entire year, and is operated on the same high plane as during the summer season. The hotel's management reports, as unprecedented, to meet the demand of the travelling public the N. Y. C. and D. & H. company have established a through train service from New York to Lake George and return.

QUEBEC DRAWS MANY TOURISTS.

QUEBEC, Canada, December 19.—The promise of all the winter sports of Switzerland without going to Switzerland is the lure that brings many American society people to quaint old Quebec in the holiday season, and in fact in the winter as long as the snow flies, to early April, Quebec is a strong rival of Palm Beach with winter brides. The quaint old French city under its frowning fortress has a distinctive charm and the unusual facility for winter sports makes it rival even St. Moritz, where everything is at the very door.

The rendezvous of Quebec and American society is the Chateau Frontenac, where the quaint old English custom obtains of singing Christmas carols by

bands of singers going from house to house on Christmas eve, while the midnight mass at Christmas in the Basilica, the great Cathedral, with its wonderful music, the sombre garbed nuns and monks and the gorgeously robed priests, is an impressive sight in New France.

The Chateau toboggan slide starts under the King's Bastion of the Citadel and ends just below the Chateau Frontenac on the terrace, hard by Paul Chevre's statue of Samuel Champlain. There are indoor and outdoor rinks for the curling and hockey, a magnificent new arena, where the Quebec Hockey Club, the Canadian champions, have a series of interesting games with Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa in the winter.

The Royal Victoria Skating Club on Grande Allee has an exclusive skating club meeting on Monday nights for dancing and there are dinner and tea dances almost daily at the Chateau Frontenac. Sleighing in the queer, low Canadian sleighs with their huge bearskin robes, snowshoeing, sliding on the Cove Fields and at Montmorency Falls and skiing on Citadel Hill are among the delights of Quebec, where everything is so near together that one can cover all winter sports in a space of ten minutes time. Visiting Americans have many an opportunity to meet Quebec's charming society people and the festivities of the holiday season include two weeks of Grand Opera by the Montreal Opera Company from January 4 on. Only one night out from New York, Quebec solves the problem of enjoying all winter sports, including bobsleighing.

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